

# The First State watermark

June 2020

## Delaware's Floodplain Management Newsletter

### Covid-19 Update

We hope you all are doing well during these unusual and trying times. Social distancing and working remotely have become the new norm and presented us with unique challenges to carry out the task at hand. DNREC remains open and we are available to aid you with your floodplain management needs. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or for any assistance we can provide.

-Dave Warga, CFM



### FEMA UPDATES TECHNICAL BULLETINS 1 and 5, March 2020



#### Requirements for Flood Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures

Below Elevated Buildings in Special Flood Hazard Areas  
In Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program

NFIP Technical Bulletin 1 / March 2020



#### Free-of-Obstruction Requirements

For Buildings Located in Coastal High Hazard Areas  
in Accordance with the National Flood Insurance  
Program

NFIP Technical Bulletin 5 / March 2020



March 2020 saw the release of two updated FEMA Technical Bulletins. TB 1, Requirements for Flood Openings in Foundation Walls and Walls of Enclosures and TB 5, Free-of-Obstruction Requirements for construction in Coastal High Hazard Areas. Be sure to get your updated copies on

<https://www.fema.gov/nfip-technical-bulletins>.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) produces Technical Bulletins to assist State and local officials interpret the NFIP's regulations and building performance requirements contained in Title 44 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR) at Section 60.3 Floodplain Management Criteria for Flood-

prone Areas. The bulletins are a great information resource for homeowners, insurance agents, building professionals and designers. There are 11 Technical Bulletins available to assist you on various topics.

## New NFIP Elevation Certificate

In case you weren't aware, on February 21, 2020, FEMA released a new elevation certificate form for the National Flood Insurance Program. The only apparent change to the form from the previous version is the form date and expiration date. Transition or "grace" periods for new Elevation Certificate forms are no longer provided. The new Elevation Certificate and instructions may be downloaded at this link: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/160> . *All new elevation certificates completed must be completed using this form.*

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

#### Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) Annual Conference

June 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

#### MAFSM Spring 2020

Conference, June 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>,

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

#### Floodplain Management Association

#### FMA Annual Conference

September 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

Sacramento, CA

### Flood Insurance Policy Renewal Periods Extended

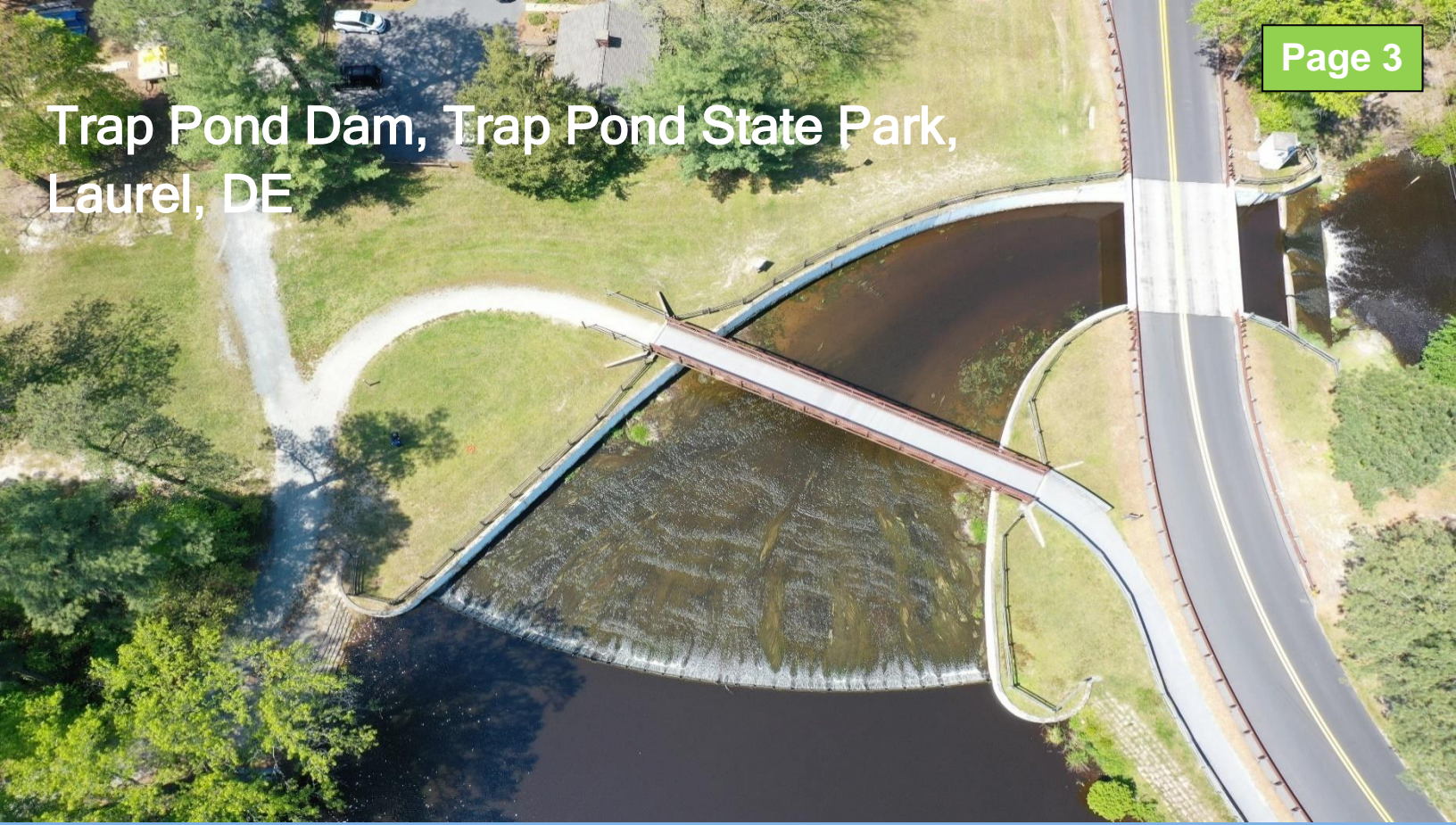
As part of their Coronavirus (COVID-19) response, FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program extended the grace period to renew flood insurance policies from 30 to 120 days to help customers who may be experiencing financial hardships. This extension applies to 1.5 million flood insurance policies with an expiration date between February 13 and June 15, 2020.

Have you heard of Delaware  
RASCL? Check them out here:  
(click)





# Trap Pond Dam, Trap Pond State Park, Laurel, DE



## DRONE

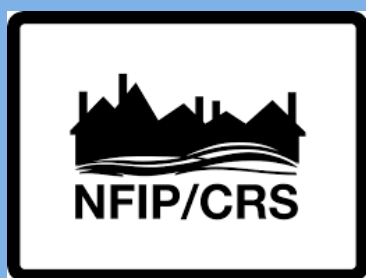


## DIGEST



Recently we had the opportunity to go out and photograph the dam at Trap Pond State Park with a drone. The photographs provide an unparalleled view of the dam and its function and will be used in creation of dam safety and maintenance documentation. The state's Dam Safety Regulations require that dam owners have an Operation & Maintenance plan for each dam and we have started to prepare these for all of the state-owned dams. Continued on Page 6





## Freeboard Requirements for CRS and Other Updates to the CRS PROGRAM *YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF*

The CRS program has released a memo concerning changes that are occurring due to both the COVID-19 pandemic and upcoming adjustments to the CRS program. In an effort to summarize the changes we have listed the highlights.

1. ISO/CRS are continuing to conduct cycle verification visits with communities remotely.
2. CRS specialists are continuing to send out Annual Recertification Packets.
3. With new Elevation Certificates issued on February 21, 2020, it is now required that Field A4 Building Use be completed for CRS purposes.
4. NFIP/CRS classes (EO278) at the Emergency Management Institute have been scheduled for July 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.
5. The CRS program is expected to release an addendum to the *CRS Coordinator's Manual* by January 2021; all communities will be expected to implement their CRS program in accord with the addendum. CRS program changes are to include:
  - a: As of January 2021, CRS communities will be required to enforce at least 1 foot of freeboard for all new or substantially improved residential buildings in numbered A and V zones in order to remain at or attain a CRS Class 8 rating. Communities that do not implement a one (1) foot freeboard requirement will be limited to a rating of CRS Class 9.
  - b. CRS credit for substantial damage management plans.
  - c. CRS credit for floodplain species assessments.

### **WEBINARS, TRAININGS and WORKSHOPS**

#### **FEMA Region III Mitigation Coffee Break Webinar**

July 15<sup>th</sup>

#### **Addressing the Risks of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD)**

#### **E0278: NFIP/Community Rating System, Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, MD**

July 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

#### **FEMA Region III Mitigation Coffee Break Webinar**

September 16<sup>th</sup>

#### **Tracking Risk Reduction through Your Capabilities Assessment**

## EDUCATIONAL CORNER

PBS Kids has created a fun and challenging online educational game for kids to learn about the floodplain. The game teaches kids that what they do can have an impact on the floodplain. Follow the link below to access the online game and educational experience. Share the link with kids you know. Check it out! 😊



### Don't Flood the Fidgits Game

**Link:** [https://pbskids.org/designsquad/games/dont\\_flood/](https://pbskids.org/designsquad/games/dont_flood/)

**Description:** Online game where participants build a city and attempt to make it flood safe.

**Flood Type:** Flooding

**Grades:** 3-5

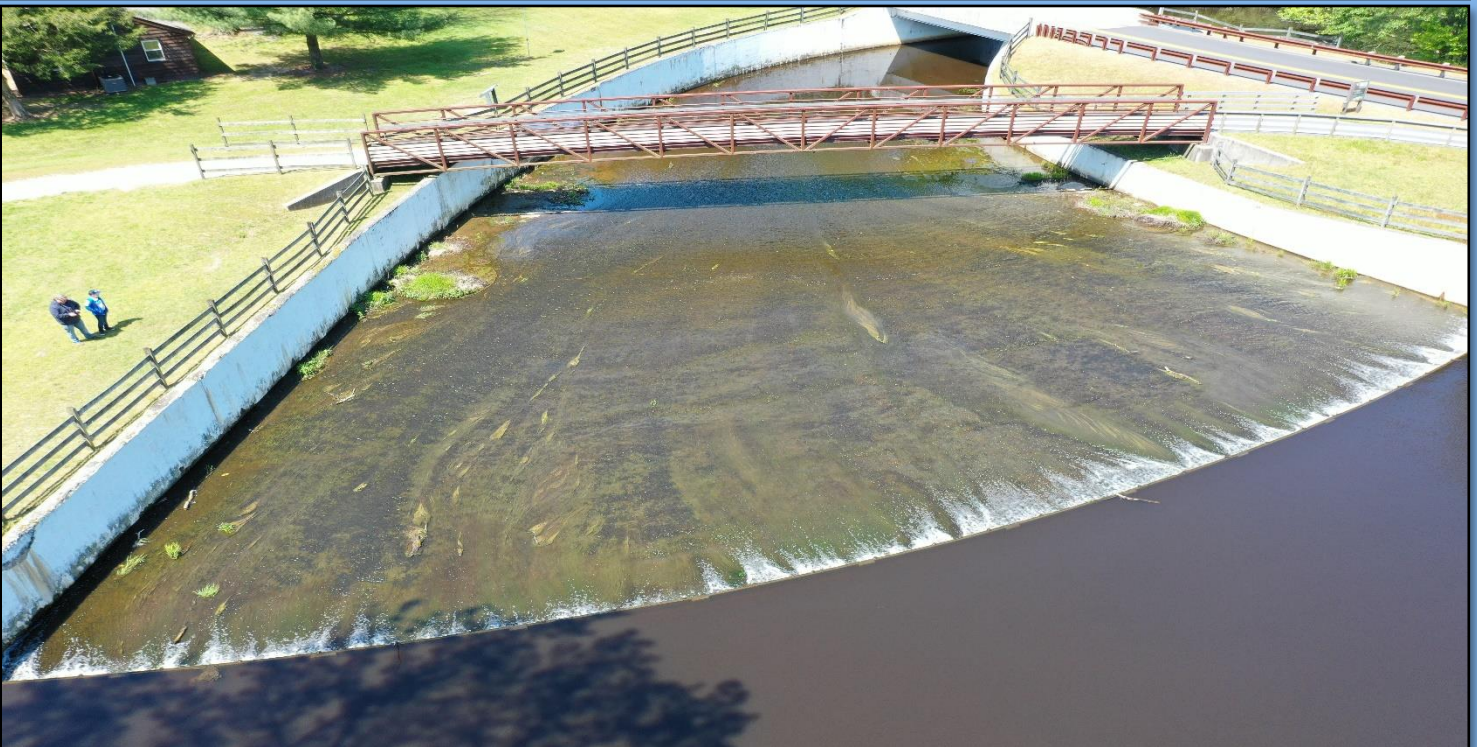
**Year:** 2017

**Author/Creator:** PBS Kids

**Cost:** Free

**DRONE DIGEST** *continued:*

The purpose of the O&M plan is to provide guidance for those who are responsible for doing maintenance activities at the dam and may have to “operate” the dam by lowering water levels ahead of a large rain event. The O&M plan contains photos of the various components of the dam to make sure that everyone is familiar with the dam and there is a common understanding about the terminology that we use. The drone photos are very useful because they are the only way that we can show the entire dam in one photo and clearly label all the components, such as the spillway, gates, upstream and downstream embankments, riprap shoreline protection, etc. The Shoreline and Waterway Management Section of DNREC will be photo documenting all State-Owned Dams.

**DNREC**

Division of Watershed  
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